

Appendix 2

Surrey City Coucil Public Hearing on TechBC

Appendix 2. Surrey City Council Public Hearing on TechBC

City of Surrey Regular Council Minutes

Council Chamber City Hall 14245 - 56 Avenue Surrey, B.C. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2001 Time: 7:00 p.m. Present: Chairperson - Mayor McCallum Councillor Villeneuve Councillor Tymoschuk Councillor Steele Councillor Bose Councillor Watts Councillor Hunt Councillor Higginbotham Absent: Councillor Eddington Staff Present: City Manager Acting City Clerk General Manager, Planning & Development General Manager, Engineering General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR City Solicitor General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES 1. Regular Council - Land Use - November 19, 2001 It was Moved by Councillor Hunt Seconded by Councillor Tymoschuk That the minutes of the Regular Council - Land Use meeting held on November 19, 2001, be adopted. RES.R01-2697 Carried 2. Regular Council - Public Hearing - November 19, 2001 It was Moved by Councillor Higginbotham Seconded by Councillor Tymoschuk That the minutes of the Regular Council - Public Hearing meeting held on November 19, 2001, be adopted. RES.R01-2698 Carried B. DELEGATIONS 1. Jean Watters, President Tech BC File: 0065-012; 8033-004 Jean Watters, President, Tech BC was in attendance to discuss the future of Tech BC.

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Mr. Jean Watters, President, Tech BC thanked Council for its support and stated he had left a very well established university to work with Tech BC, the most forward thinking university in Canada. Mr. Watters introduced other members of the delegation. Tammy Mooney, student representative, stated that she is a third year student at Tech BC and that she applied because it offers an innovative education to equip students for the 21st century. She stated that she and other students have entrusted their futures to Tech BC, yet despite its excellence, the Provincial Government is considering shutting down the university. She stated that the Government does not understand that other universities do not offer the interdisciplinary or cooperative learning models that make Tech BC so innovative. Ian Buckley, student representative, stated that he lives in Vancouver but comes to Surrey to attend the Technical University. Mr. Buckley stated that they have had amazing accomplishments over the last 2 years, and reviewed some of the accomplishments of students, and their contribution to the community. He noted that 2nd year students are working on technologies that other students would not get the opportunity to work with until their 4th year. Joe, a graduate student, stated that he is a member of the business community and academia. He stated that the Technical University combines the wisdom of management sciences with technological innovation, and that he is saddened by the erosion of the economy and the many infrastructures that residents need. He commented that Tech BC has good professors, good content and good delivery. He concluded by asking that Council stand firmly behind the cause

of retaining Tech BC. Alice Mansell, Vice-President Academics, Tech BC, gave a slide presentation, and noted that Tech BC has always followed a business plan and has the short-term goals of a business with the long-term goals of a university. She stated that Tech BC is Surrey's university, and that the students come from a variety of backgrounds, seeking a flexible schedule. Ms. Mansell stated that the university can design and deliver programs in 4 months where other universities take 2 years. She noted that they have a 98% student retention rate in the first year where other universities claim a 50% student retention rate is good. She noted that learners can get at the university 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and that the facilities are well utilized. Ms. Mansell stated that Surrey has to have a university that invests in Surrey, so that in the future, there will be between 10 to 80 start ups of major attraction industries in the City. Ms. Mansell noted that 80% of the learners are from the Fraser Valley and Richmond, and of those 80% are from Surrey. She advised that in 5 years Tech BC will graduate the current number of high tech graduates of all universities combined. Ms. Mansell concluded that Surrey's future is Tech BC's future, and emphasized the need to provide trained workers, who can also deliver new businesses and compete in the global economy. Susan Kozell, faculty member, Tech BC, stated that she left a fully tenured position in England to work at Tech BC because of its unparalleled vision. She stated that she is continually impressed by the learners who have the ability to grow with each new challenge. Ms. Kozell reviewed the exceptional background of some of the other faculty members and noted that if Tech BC closes, these people will most likely leave the Province of British Columbia. Rob Woodbury, faculty member, Tech BC, stated that he left a tenured position at one of Australia's best universities, and that he came to Tech BC because of its technology and innovative approach to learning and research. He stated it was a pleasure to be surrounded by his peers, intellectual superiors and the extraordinary faculty. Dean Watters, concluded by stating that Tech BC has 40 professors from 14 different countries, and that Tech BC can contribute greatly to the future of the Province of British Columbia. Mr. Watters stated that if Tech BC is closed it will be the largest brain drain that this country has ever experienced. Mr. Watters stated that he is proud to be part of a team that has built the most innovative university in the country, and asked for Council's support to ensure the university stays in the community. The Mayor and Council held a discussion with the delegation and expressed its strong support for Tech BC. Mayor McCallum asked that members of the public write to Victoria and express their concern, and noted that it is critical to let Victoria know how important the Technical University is for the students and for the new economy. It was Moved by Councillor Watts Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham That the Mayor and Council request a meeting with the Premier and the Minister of Advanced Education to discuss ways and means to have Tech BC remain in Surrey for the benefit of the students and to the benefit of all of British Columbia.